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State Overview

2000 STATE POPULATION REACHES 1,293,953

Idaho's resident population, as of April 1, 2000, was 1,293,953 according to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau, an increase of 28.5 percent over the 1,006,749 persons counted during the 1990 census. The growth ranked Idaho as the 5th fastest growing state in the country as measured by percent change. It moved Idaho from 42nd in 1990 to 39th in 2000 when ranked by actual population numbers among the states. Population estimates for Idaho's counties will be not released until March.

Idaho is comprised of 82,413 square miles. The state geography varies from high desert in the southern region to beautiful forests on rugged mountains in the north. In 1990, there were 12.2 persons per square mile. By 2000, that number had grown to 15.7 per square mile. The urban areas of Idaho had 64.1 persons per square mile in 1990 compared to an estimated 82.7 persons in 1999. The rural areas had 5.3 persons per square mile in 1990 and an estimated 6.2 persons in 1999.

The most populous state in the United States was California with 33,871,648 persons. Wyoming was the least populous state on April 1, 2000 with only 493,782 residents. Nevada was the nation's fastest growing state at 66.3 percent between April 1, 1990 and April 1, 2000. Both Idaho and Nevada were above the national rate of 13.2 percent. The other three fastest-growing states were Arizona at 40.0 percent, Colorado at 30.6 percent, and Utah at 29.6 percent.

Information on the population of the United States, regions, and other states can be obtained by accessing the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>.

IDAHO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 4.9 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November was 4.9 percent, an increase of two-tenths of a percentage point from October's rate of 4.7 percent. Idaho's November unemployment rate is three-tenths of a percentage point above the 4.6 percent rate experienced one year ago. The national unemployment rate in November is 4.0 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from October.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* increased in November, both from October 2000 and November 1999. The increase between October and November occurred because the number of jobless workers rose by 1,300 with no change in the number of persons employed. The gain resulted in a *Civilian Labor Force* of 677,500 in November.

Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for eight Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho—Seaport LMA, Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Magic Valley LMA.

WHAT'S UP?

We are currently in the process of archiving back issues of the *Idaho Employment* newsletter to be available via the internet for you. You will be able to access the current issue, which is available now, as well as the two previous issues, in the near future. Check it out at online at www.labor.state.id.us.

Of the eight, the Idaho-Lewis LMA reported the highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, down six-tenths of a percentage point from October. This smallest Idaho LMA is very dependent on natural resource industries, especially lumber and forestry.

The Boise City MSA reported the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from October. This is the largest labor market area in Idaho, comprising 35 percent of the state's labor force. The *Services* industry provides over 26 percent of all jobs in the area with 25 percent of the jobs in *Trade*. Approximately 16 percent of the jobs are in *Manufacturing* with half of those in the "high tech" sector. *Government* plays an important role as it provides nearly 15 percent of all nonfarm jobs.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 44 counties in the state, five had double-digit unemployment rates in November: Clearwater County at 13.8 percent, down from 14.1 percent in October; Adams County at 12.0 percent, up from 11.1 percent in October; Benewah County at 11.4 percent, down from 11.0 percent in October; Lemhi County at 11.0 percent, up from 7.7 percent in October; and Idaho County at 10.7 percent, up from 9.9 percent in October. The last two counties rely heavily on natural resources, primarily timber. Mining is also a major industry in Lemhi County.

Two counties reported an unemployment rate at or below 3.0 percent in November: Ada County at 2.9 percent, unchanged from October, and Madison County at 2.8 percent, up from 2.4 percent in October. These two counties vary in size and economic composition. Ada County is a large urban county with nearly 60,000 jobs in the *Services* industry. Madison County is a small rural county where the major industry is private education—BYU – Idaho, formerly known as Ricks College, which has 8,900 students.

Nine other counties reported unemployment rates at or below 4.0 percent: Jerome, Teton, Latah, Oneida, Franklin, Gooding, Bonneville, Blaine, Butte, and Oneida.

AGRICULTURE

Farm sector employment in Idaho decreased 26.1 percent from October to 30,990 in November. The drop in employment reflected the end of the agriculture season. By November only a few sugarbeets remained in the field to be harvested resulting in job losses in two sectors: Unpaid Family, which decreased 35.1 percent, and Hired Workers, which decreased 33.2 percent. In November, the number of agriculture workers normally decreases following an upturn in October as harvest activities are completed. Employment will range between 30,000 and 28,000 until April when spring farming activities will begin requiring additional hired workers.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Job growth thus far in 2000 has been healthy. The 3.0 percent or more annual growth experienced since 1988 will be achieved this year indicating the strength in Idaho's economy.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs had a slight dip in employment in November as the number of jobs dropped to 570,400, a loss of 700 from October. However, the number of jobs increased 3.1 percent, or 17,000, from November 1999. The month-to-month changes reflect an increase of 900 jobs in the *Service-Producing Industries*, while a decrease of 1,600 jobs occurred in the *Goods-Producing Industries*. *Retail Trade* experienced the largest growth from October to November with 1,900 new jobs. Two of the three major industrial sectors in the *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a loss of jobs in November. *Services* accounted for the largest growth from November 1999 with 8,000 new jobs. (For more information, see State Table 2 on page 5.)

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IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is funded either partially or entirely by federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. Ninety-five percent of administrative funding at the Idaho Department of Labor is provided by these federal grants, with the remainder funded by state sources. Fiscal Year 1999 administrative expenditures for the Idaho Department of Labor totaled \$36,657,628.

Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 334-6451 or by E-mail to:

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Or to the Labor Market Analyst noted in each area news section.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR

Roger B. Madsen, Director



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GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

Goods-Producing Industries accounted for 116,100 jobs in November, down from 119,700 in October and 117,500 in November 1999.

Mining

The number of jobs in the *Mining* sector remained unchanged from October. A loss of 100 jobs occurred in October as activity in the phosphate mines slowed with the onset of winter weather. In November the number of jobs stabilized at 2,500, down 100 from the 2,600 recorded in November 1999. The year-to-date decrease was in *Metal Mining* as the number of jobs decreased from 1,400 to 1,300.

Construction

Construction reported the largest loss of jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* during November. Employment, at 39,700, was down 1,400 jobs from October, but up 2,300 jobs from November 1999. *Heavy Construction* lost 600 jobs as winter weather slowed activity on major highway projects across the state. *Special Trade Contractors* reported a loss 600 jobs from October. The loss was in activities such as roofing, concrete, excavation, and steel erection. It is not unusual for the loss of jobs in these sectors as the colder weather reduces outdoor activity. The number of jobs in *Building Construction* dropped by 200 from October.

Special Trade Contractors reported the largest growth in the number of jobs from last year—1,400. *Building Construction* also reported a sizeable gain of 700 jobs from November 1999. Residential construction remained strong in 2000, providing job opportunities in these two sectors.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing jobs declined at a rate of 0.3 percent losing 200 jobs since October bringing employment to 75,900. Unfortunately, the number of jobs is 1,600 below the November 1999 level of 77,500. The year-to-date job loss was primarily in *Lumber & Wood Products*, down 2,400 jobs.

During November 2000 employment losses occurred in *Lumber & Wood Products* (100 jobs) as market conditions continued to have a negative impact on this industry. Also the cold, wintry weather reduced logging activity. The number of jobs at *Sawmills & Planing Mills* is 800 below November 1999 and *Logging* is 700 below 1999, as the timber industry has struggled all year with poor market conditions, low prices for timber, and a dwindling supply of timber on public lands.

The loss of 100 *Food Processing* jobs in November brought employment to 17,300. A job loss of 300 in the *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties* was offset by a job gain of 100 in the *Sugar & Confectionery Products* sector. The potatoes have been harvested so the number of seasonal jobs dropped. The harvesting and processing of sugarbeets continued into November. The number of jobs involved in sugarbeet processing will continue at a high level until February when the campaign is over.

There was one sector that reported a significant year-to-date gain in jobs - *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, excluding, Computer* (1,200). The component sec-

State Table 1: November 2000 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,500	1,610	4.7	32,890
Nez Perce County	22,880	1,110	4.8	21,770
Asotin County, WA	11,620	500	4.3	11,120
Boise City MSA	239,870	7,880	3.3	231,990
Ada County	173,720	4,960	2.9	168,760
Canyon County	66,150	2,920	4.4	63,230
Pocatello City MSA*	41,690	1,870	4.5	39,820
Bonneville LMA	82,950	3,130	3.8	79,820
Bingham County	22,740	1,010	4.4	21,730
Bonneville County	48,140	1,590	3.3	46,550
Butte County	1,675	55	3.3	1,620
Jefferson County	10,390	470	4.5	9,920
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	20,870	1,220	5.8	19,650
Cassia County	10,370	590	5.7	9,780
Minidoka County	10,490	630	6.0	9,860
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,820	760	9.7	7,060
Idaho County	6,270	670	10.7	5,600
Lewis County	1,540	85	5.4	1,455
Panhandle LMA	91,540	8,110	8.9	83,430
Benewah County	4,630	530	11.5	4,100
Bonner County	17,640	1,360	7.7	16,280
Boundary County	4,600	390	8.5	4,210
Kootenai County	57,810	5,170	8.9	52,640
Shoshone County	6,850	650	9.5	6,200
Magic Valley LMA	50,080	2,220	4.4	47,860
Gooding County	6,940	230	3.4	6,710
Jerome County	9,340	370	4.0	8,970
Twin Falls County	33,800	1,620	4.8	32,180
Adams County	1,630	195	11.9	1,435
Bear Lake County	2,980	160	5.3	2,820
Blaine County	11,820	390	3.3	11,430
Boise County	1,735	135	7.8	1,600
Camas County	490	20	4.6	470
Caribou County	3,220	180	5.6	3,040
Clark County	670	30	4.5	640
Clearwater County	4,200	580	13.8	3,620
Custer County	2,025	155	7.7	1,870
Elmore County	9,500	610	6.5	8,890
Franklin County	4,950	170	3.4	4,780
Fremont County	4,950	370	7.4	4,580
Gem County	6,165	325	5.3	5,840
Latah County	15,110	540	3.6	14,570
Lemhi County	3,730	410	10.9	3,320
Lincoln County	1,970	80	4.1	1,890
Madison County	11,960	330	2.7	11,630
Oneida County	1,780	55	3.2	1,725
Owyhee County	4,230	175	4.1	4,055
Payette County	10,500	800	7.6	9,700
Power County	3,790	260	6.8	3,530
Teton County	3,650	135	3.7	3,515
Valley County	4,010	320	7.9	3,690
Washington County	4,745	365	7.7	4,380
State of Idaho	677,470	33,070	4.9	644,400
Idaho Cities				
Boise	110,140	3,010	2.7	107,130
Coeur d'Alene	20,320	1,360	6.7	18,960
Idaho Falls	29,750	1,000	3.4	28,750
Lewiston	19,290	810	4.2	18,480
Nampa	20,220	940	4.6	19,280
Pocatello	29,870	1,310	4.4	28,560
Twin Falls	17,660	820	4.6	16,840

tor of "high-tech" continues to grow and currently includes 10,400 jobs. The growth in this sector helped offset the year-to-date losses in *Lumber & Wood Products* (2,400). *Transportation Equipment* and the *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes* sector of the lumber industry are also experiencing job losses from November 1999, 300 and 400 jobs respectively. The supply of recreation vehicles and modular homes on the lots is increasing. The increase in gas prices has had a negative impact on transportation equipment, particular recreation vehicles. The drop in mortgage rates has reduced demand for modular homes because the loans for conventional housing are more reasonable.

SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

Service-Producing Industries accounted for 452,300 jobs in November, up from 451,400 in October and 435,900 in November 1999. Job increases of 1,900 (1.3 percent) occurred in *Retail Trade* due to seasonal factors. Many retail establishments begin gearing up for the holiday shopping season in November. The growth was offset by job losses in *Services* (400) and *Government* (600).

Transportation, Communications, & Utilities

The loss of 300 jobs in *Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing* contributed to the job loss in *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities*. A contributing factor to the decrease was a drop in the demand for agriculture-related truck drivers because of the completion of the potato harvest and near completion of the sugarbeet harvest.

The number of jobs in the *Communication* sector increased 3.2 percent (200) to 6,400 from October. The year-to-date data shows an increase of 6.7 percent, or 400 jobs. The job growth in this sector is a result of the increased number of call centers in Idaho. All call centers are not classified in the *Communications* sector but there have been several in the past year that have contributed to the increase in jobs.

Trade

Trade exhibited a net increase of 1,900 jobs in November from the prior month. The growth was entirely in the *Retail Trade* sector. The largest growth sector was *General Merchandise Stores*, where 1,300 new jobs were created in November. This sector has added 2,100 jobs since November 1999. It was Christmas-shopping time and the retail outlets increased hours and the number of jobs. Employment in the *Retail Trade* sector is 4.3 percent above the November 1999 level. The following sectors also reported a seasonal increase in the number of jobs between October and November: *Apparel & Accessory Stores* (200), *Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores* (200), and *Miscellaneous Retail* (500). The jobs in the miscellaneous sector include farm supplies, bookstores, florists, etc.

The year-to-date data reflects an addition of 6,000 jobs in *Trade*. The *Wholesale Trade* sectors added 800 new jobs. The *Groceries & Related Products* sector has added over 500 new jobs during the past 12 months. This sector includes the wholesale distribution of groceries, packaged frozen goods, dairy products, poultry products, confectionery, fish and seafood, meat products, and fresh fruits and vegetables. The other 5,200 new jobs were in *Retail Trade*. Leading the way was *General Merchandise Stores Eating & Drinking Places* with

2,100 new jobs. Many national chains opened eateries across the state in 2000. There was strong job growth reported in *Eating & Drinking Places* (1,600), *Food Stores* (800), and *Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores* (300). The growth in home furnishings is not only related to the opening of several national furniture stores but the expansion of *Computer and Computer Software Stores* that are included in this industrial classification.

Services

Services employment, at 144,300, accounted for 25 percent of the nonfarm jobs. Job loss was seasonal as *Business Services* lost 100 jobs, *Amusement & Recreation Services* lost 300 jobs, and *Hotels & Other Lodging Places* lost 500 jobs. The loss of more than 100 jobs at temporary employment agencies resulted in the drop in *Business Services*. The months between the summer tourist and winter tourist season provides little opportunity of job growth in the two tourist-related sectors. The lack of snow in early November had a negative impact on these sectors. Employment in these industries should increase when winter resorts open in December.

The year-to-date job growth reflects the addition of 3,300 jobs in *Business Services* with 1,600 in *Personnel Supply Services*, 1,200 new jobs *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* which have occurred primarily at INEEL, and 1,100 jobs in *Health Services* half of which are in doctor's offices and the other half in hospitals.

Government

The loss of 700 jobs in *Government* reflects the difference in the changes in administration and education related jobs. *Federal Government* lost over 500 jobs at the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation between October and November, reflecting seasonal activities. *State & Local Government* experienced a job loss of 200 as seasonal help was laid off. *Local Government Education* was the only sector to experience a growth—600 additional workers were hired in November as schools continued to hire support staff.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	570,400	571,100	553,400	-0.1	3.1
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	118,100	119,700	117,500	-1.3	0.5
Mining	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Metal Mining	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Construction	39,700	41,100	37,400	-3.4	6.1
Manufacturing	75,900	76,100	77,500	-0.3	-2.1
Durable Goods	46,500	46,600	47,800	-0.2	-2.7
Lumber & Wood Products	11,400	11,500	13,800	-0.9	-17.4
Logging	2,100	2,200	2,800	-4.5	-25.0
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,000	3,900	4,800	2.6	-16.7
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,200	1,300	1,600	-7.7	-25.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	4,100	4,100	4,600	0.0	-10.9
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,200	3,200	3,100	0.0	3.2
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	10,400	10,500	10,400	-1.0	0.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	14,100	13,900	12,900	1.4	9.3
Transportation Equipment	2,100	2,000	2,400	5.0	-12.5
Other Durable Goods	3,700	3,900	3,600	-5.1	2.8
Nondurable Goods	29,400	29,500	29,700	-0.3	-1.0
Food Processing	17,300	17,400	17,800	-0.6	-2.8
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,400	9,600	10,000	-2.1	-6.0
Paper Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,600	5,600	5,200	0.0	7.7
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,200	0.0	-9.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	452,300	451,400	435,900	0.2	3.8
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	28,100	28,200	27,200	-0.4	3.3
Transportation	17,700	18,000	17,200	-1.7	2.9
Railroad	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,000	10,300	10,000	-2.9	0.0
Communications	6,400	6,200	6,000	3.2	6.7
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	0.0
Trade	145,000	143,100	139,000	1.3	4.3
Wholesale Trade	33,500	33,500	32,700	0.0	2.4
Durable Goods	15,000	15,000	14,800	0.0	1.4
Nondurable Goods	18,500	18,500	17,900	0.0	3.4
Retail Trade	111,500	109,600	106,300	1.7	4.9
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,700	6,900	6,400	-2.9	4.7
General Merchandise Stores	14,300	13,000	12,200	10.0	17.2
Food Stores	20,500	20,500	19,700	0.0	4.1
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,400	12,500	12,300	-0.8	0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	37,300	37,500	35,700	-0.5	4.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	23,700	23,600	23,600	0.4	0.4
Banking	7,600	7,600	7,400	0.0	2.7
Services	144,300	144,700	136,300	-0.3	5.9
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8,000	8,500	7,500	-5.9	6.7
Personal Services	4,200	4,200	4,300	0.0	-2.3
Business Services	29,900	30,000	26,600	-0.3	12.4
Amusement and Recreation Services	5,500	5,800	5,400	-5.2	1.9
Health Services	36,200	35,900	35,100	0.8	3.1
Hospitals	11,700	11,600	11,200	0.9	4.5
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	18,500	18,100	17,300	2.2	6.9
Government	111,200	111,800	109,800	-0.5	1.3
Federal Government	13,200	13,600	12,400	-2.9	6.5
State & Local Government	98,000	98,200	97,400	-0.2	0.6
State Government	28,000	28,500	30,000	-1.8	-6.7
Education	14,500	14,500	16,300	0.0	-11.0
Administration	13,500	14,000	13,700	-3.6	-1.5
Local Government	70,000	69,700	67,400	0.4	3.9
Education	40,700	40,100	38,200	1.5	6.5
Administration	29,300	29,600	29,200	-1.0	0.3

*-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

State Table C: Economic Indicators

	Nov 2000	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	677,500	676,200	660,100	0.2	2.6
Unemployment	33,100	31,800	30,300	4.1	9.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.7	4.6		
Total Employment	644,400	644,400	629,800	0.0	2.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	677,800	677,200	660,500	0.1	2.6
Unemployment	29,700	25,700	27,200	15.6	9.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.8	4.1		
Total Employment	648,100	651,500	633,300	-0.5	2.3
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	4.0	3.9	4.1		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	170.9	170.6	165.1	0.2	3.5
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	174.1	174.0	168.3	0.1	3.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	30,990	41,920	30,440	-26.1	1.8
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	480	740	470	-35.1	2.1
Hired Workers	21,500	32,170	20,960	-33.2	2.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	13,043	7,120	11,044	83.2	18.1
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	45,201	33,495	46,198	34.9	-2.2
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	35,352	26,474	36,785	33.5	-3.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid	7,068,402	5,280,221	6,878,657	33.9	2.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$199.94	\$199.45	\$187.00	0.2	6.9
Covered Employers	39,016	38,954	37,934	0.2	2.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$105,374,570	\$105,184,825	\$108,186,470	0.2	-2.6

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

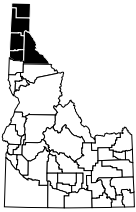
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liabile Activities

HOURS AND EARNINGS

	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov 2000	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	Nov 2000	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	Nov 2000	Oct 2000	Nov 1999
Mining	\$596.69	\$611.53	\$579.98	39.7	40.1	40.7	\$15.03	\$15.25	\$14.25
Construction	\$640.38	\$687.29	\$586.88	39.0	40.5	37.5	\$16.42	\$16.97	\$15.65
Total Manufacturing	\$595.76	\$590.63	\$547.43	40.2	39.8	39.9	\$14.82	\$14.84	\$13.72
Lumber & Wood Products	\$517.38	\$513.24	\$492.96	37.6	36.4	39.0	\$13.76	\$14.10	\$12.64
Food & Kindred Products	\$489.16	\$482.00	\$474.56	40.9	40.1	40.7	\$11.96	\$12.02	\$11.66
Communications	\$651.20	\$723.70	\$725.99	36.4	42.1	40.4	\$17.89	\$17.19	\$17.97
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$907.82	\$909.24	\$750.01	40.6	40.7	38.7	\$22.36	\$22.34	\$19.38
Trade	\$320.87	\$326.48	\$309.99	30.1	30.8	29.3	\$10.66	\$10.60	\$10.58
Wholesale Trade	\$515.43	\$530.92	\$512.59	38.9	40.1	36.2	\$13.25	\$13.24	\$14.16
Retail Trade	\$266.75	\$269.03	\$251.16	27.7	28.2	27.3	\$9.63	\$9.54	\$9.20

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Job losses in *Goods-Producing Industries* explain most of the increase in the Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 7.3 percent in November 1999 to 8.9 percent in November 2000. The rest of the increase was caused by differences in the weather. November 1999 was less cold and wet than November 2000, and roads were easier to travel, allowing more construction, logging, tourist, and transportation activity.

Throughout most of 2000, silver prices hovered just below \$5.00 per ounce, lower than the break-even point for most mines. Lead and zinc prices also remained at low levels. Last summer, low prices forced the Sunshine Mine near Kellogg to close its 15-employee antimony plant. The Sunshine's shaky financial situation caused some young workers to leave their jobs there. Its employment fell from 280 in November 1999 to 210 in November 2000. In the same period, employment in the Panhandle's *Mining* industry fell 3.0 percent. Since November, silver prices have fallen below \$4.50. Falling prices forced the Sunshine Mine to lay off 27 employees at the end of December. After the layoff, Sunshine now employs about 187 people. If silver prices do not rise considerably, more mining jobs could be lost this year.

Falling lumber prices caused *Lumber & Wood Products* employment in November 2000 to be 10.3 percent lower than in November 1999. Since November, the situation has improved a bit. In early January, Crown Pacific reopened the Coeur d'Alene mill, recalling 80 employees. Approximately 50 mill employees remain out of work. With lumber prices depressed and energy costs rising, the Panhandle *Lumber & Wood Products* industry faces some tough challenges in 2001.

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,540	90,720	88,550	0.9	3.4
Unemployed	8,110	7,620	6,500	6.4	24.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.9%	8.4%	7.3%		
Total Employment	83,430	83,100	82,050	0.4	1.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,690	89,880	88,840	2.0	3.2
Unemployed	7,250	6,040	5,800	20.0	25.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9%	6.7%	6.5%		
Total Employment	84,440	83,840	83,040	0.7	1.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	68,110	68,500	66,100	-0.6	3.0
Goods-Producing Industries	15,040	15,130	15,250	-0.6	-1.4
Mining	990	990	1,020	0.0	-2.9
Construction	5,200	5,410	5,190	-3.9	0.2
Manufacturing	8,850	8,730	9,040	1.4	-2.1
Lumber & Wood Products	4,210	4,130	4,690	1.9	-10.2
All Other Manufacturing	4,640	4,600	4,350	0.9	6.7
Service-Producing Industries	53,070	53,370	50,850	-0.6	4.4
Transportation	1,530	1,540	1,500	-0.6	2.0
Communication & Utilities	1,070	1,070	1,030	0.0	3.9
Wholesale Trade	2,280	2,260	2,240	0.9	1.8
Retail Trade	15,710	15,740	15,380	-0.2	2.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,460	2,510	2,490	-2.0	-1.2
Service & Miscellaneous	16,600	16,860	15,270	-1.5	8.7
Government Administration	7,920	7,910	7,650	0.1	3.5
Government Education	5,500	5,480	5,290	0.4	4.0

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

All Other Manufacturing was the bright spot for Panhandle *Goods-Producing Industries* in 2000. Electronics, furniture, silver coin, and other manufacturers added 290 jobs between November 1999 and November 2000. Since the fall, Panhandle manufacturers, like other U.S. manufacturers, have seen their sales slump and inventories rise, and some have responded by reducing hours of work or even cutting jobs.

Service-Producing Industries expanded between November 1999 and November 2000, and are expected to continue to grow in 2001. Call centers, health care providers, schools, tourist businesses, and temporary staffing agencies added the most jobs between 1999 and 2000, and are expected to be the largest sources of new jobs in 2001.

This winter, tourism is a bit disappointing. The 2000-2001 ski season is lackluster compared to the previous ski season, which brought plenty of snow to the ski slopes. Despite the heavy snowfall in the mountains, the roads usually were bare, making it easy for skiers to get to the ski hills. The 2000-2001 ski season so far has brought too little snow, yet icy roads. Snow pack is about half of its normal level. Despite the uncooperative weather in

December 2000, Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint broke its previous record for ski visits set in December 1999. Schweitzer's new six-person chairlift is proving to be very popular. Low snow levels made opening day at Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg the latest it's been in five years. The lack of snow also reduced ski visits. Low snow levels and poor road conditions hinder snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, as well.

Since November, call centers have announced developments that could result in the addition of 750 jobs this year. First, as reported in the November newsletter, Tele-Servicing Innovation (TSI) announced it would open a call center in Smelterville, the heart of the Silver Valley. Then, in January, Center Partners announced it was opening a customer service center in Coeur d'Alene that could employ 300 people by April and 500 people by next year.

Based in Fort Collins, Colorado, Center Partners operates customer service centers in Arizona, Colorado, and Idaho Falls. Jobs Plus, the local economic development organization that has recruited so many firms to Kootenai County, convinced Center Partners that Coeur d'Alene would be a great location for their next customer service center. Center Partners is leasing the 40,000-square foot building at 1200 Ironwood Drive that housed the U.S. Forest Service until 1994, and then the Coldwater Creek call center from 1996 until it moved to the Coeur d'Alene Tech Center last fall. Center Partners expects to hire nearly 300 customer service representatives in the next two months. It also will hire managers, supervisors, and administrative support personnel locally. Wages and benefits promise to be higher than average. For information about jobs with Center Partners, contact Coeur d'Alene Job Service at (208)-769-1558.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonner County

- Bert Dennett recently opened Sandpoint Jewelry & Gifts—specializing in estate jewelry, antiques, clocks, and hand-painted Italian pottery—at 111 N. First Avenue in downtown Sandpoint.
- Schuck's Auto Supply opened a 7,000-square foot store in November at 3310 Highway 95 North in Sandpoint. The auto parts and accessories store employs 10 people.
- Pend Oreille Printers, a print shop on the first floor of the Daily Bee building in downtown Sandpoint, closed at the end of December putting nine people out of work. Many print shops in the United States are closing because personal computers and color photocopiers have reduced the need for print shops.

Kootenai County

- Between the main hospital building on Ironwood in Coeur d'Alene and Interstate 90, Kootenai Medical

Center (KMC) is building a \$1.7 million, 14,000-square foot center for rehabilitation and therapeutic care. KMC's McGrane Center will include a large indoor therapy pool with a lift and special handrails, a large exercise room with covered patio, a room for an adult day-care program, a classroom, and examining rooms. When the center opens in June, KMC will hire 10 people to staff it.

- Dalton Gardens, a city of 2,500 people sandwiched between Coeur d'Alene and Hayden, recently welcomed Picket Fence. Located in the Dalton Court mini-mall at 7352 Government Way, the 1,400-square foot gift shop features candles, cards, antiques, furniture, home décor, and collectibles.
- New businesses in Post Falls include Winger's Diner, a restaurant overlooking Interstate 90 and accessible from Seltice Way in Post Falls; Quality Stoves, selling and repairing stoves for heating and Amish furniture at 1835 Edmonton Avenue; Lakewind Custom Shutters, selling customized window shutters at 55 Cedar Street; Prime Time Grill, a restaurant in the former Rick D's space on Spokane Street; Frederick's, a micro-brewery pub serving lunch and dinner at 315 N. Ross Point Road; Racer's Edge, a store selling helmets for motor sports and bicycling and racing t-shirts, at the Prime Outlets; and Nature's Health Center, offering nutritional supplements and colon therapy, at 5900 W. Seltice Way.
- Businesses that opened in Coeur d'Alene in the last two months include Olive Garden, an Italian restaurant employing 150 people at the northwest corner of U.S. Highway 95 and Canfield Avenue; Pic 'N'Save, a store that sells close-out items that manufacturers have discontinued, in part of the old Montgomery Ward's space in the Coeur d'Alene Town Center on Appleway; Traditions, a gift store featuring Western American items and pottery, at 313 Sherman Avenue; Anna Leighs, a store specializing in women's clothing and housewares, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Shopping Plaza; Coeur d'Alene Bridal and Formal, a bridal shop at 402 W. Canfield Avenue; Scrubs N'Stuff, a store specializing in medical uniforms at 1801 Lincoln Way; Quizno's Subs Store, a sandwich restaurant in Ironwood Square; and Casa de Oro, a Mexican restaurant in front of Tidyman's along Highway 95.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Seaport Table 1, the Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from October's rate of 5.0 percent to 4.7 percent in November. In November 1999 the rate was 3.2 percent. Total employment increased in November but is significantly below November 1999. November employment increased 660 from October 2000, but unemployment decreased only by 100, suggesting most of the new employment was in holiday related work. Hiring for holiday shopping is a normal event that usually starts in October. However, this year, hiring didn't start until later in November. Employers said they delayed hiring to get a feel of consumer's attitude. According to comments made by businesses in *Retail Trade*, sales this year were below last year, which was only an average year.

In November, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 380 from October 2000, but decreased 1,170 from November 1999. New jobs in November were found most often in *Trade and Services*. Still, these new jobs resulted from holiday hiring, which are temporary in nature. Even with the increase, holiday hiring was down from last year and started a month later than usual. Because of the late start, jobs were shorter in duration. Stores waited to hire for the holidays because of the concern with layoffs in other industries. During 2000, layoffs occurred in *Food Processing*, *Metal Fabrication*, and *Lumber & Wood Products*. More layoffs are being discussed in *Manufacturing*, which has a left a black cloud of concern over the economy for 2001 in this region.

SPECIAL TOPICS: WAGES

Local businesses are evaluating compensation packages to determine whether to increase wages for 2001. Employers usually look at the cost of living (Consumer Price Index) first. As of October 2000, the Consumer Price Index was 174.0—a 3.3 percent increase from October 1999. Employers also look at wage trends from the previous year.

Clearwater County: Average wages in 2000 decreased in all industries except for *Trade and Government*. The average wage per worker increased only 0.5 percent. Clearwater County has been hard hit by layoffs in *Lumber & Wood Products*. A method to calcu-

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,500	33,940	35,400	1.6	-2.5
Unemployment	1,610	1,710	1,150	-5.8	40.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7%	5.0%	3.2%	-0.3%	-1.5%
Total Employment	32,890	32,230	34,250	2.0	-4.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,390	33,680	35,330	2.1	-2.7
Unemployment	1,460	1,430	1,040	2.1	40.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2%	4.2%	2.9%	0.0%	-1.3%
Total Employment	32,930	32,250	34,290	2.1	-4.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,150	24,770	26,320	1.5	-4.4
Goods-Producing Industries	4,840	4,780	5,490	1.3	-11.8
Mining & Construction	1,080	1,110	1,380	-2.7	-21.7
Manufacturing	3,760	3,670	4,110	2.5	-8.5
Food Processing	60	70	140	-14.3	-57.1
Lumber & Wood Products	710	680	780	4.4	-9.0
Paper Products	1,760	1,730	1,820	1.7	-3.3
All Other Manufacturing	1,230	1,190	1,370	3.4	-10.2
Service-Producing Industries	20,310	19,990	20,830	1.6	-2.5
Transportation	1,360	1,340	1,350	1.5	0.7
Communications & Utilities	260	260	270	0.0	-3.7
Wholesale Trade	1,080	1,070	1,070	0.9	0.9
Retail Trade	5,360	5,240	5,440	2.3	-1.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,380	1,350	1,460	2.2	-5.5
Services	6,710	6,560	6,990	2.3	-4.0
Government Administration	1,780	1,780	1,760	0.0	1.1
Government Education	2,380	2,390	2,490	-0.4	-4.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

late the real change or buying power in wages is to subtract the cost of living from the change in wages. Using this method, buying power from Clearwater County wages decreased 2.9 percent in 2000.

Idaho County: The average wage per worker in 2000 increased in all industries except for *Manufacturing*, *Transportation*, and *Communication and Utilities*. Idaho County had the highest increase of the five counties in North Central Idaho. Buying power from Idaho County wages increased only 1.8 percent in 2000 using the previously described calculation.

Latah County: The average wage per worker decreased 4.5 percent in 2000. The decrease means that buying power decreased significantly when figuring in the rate of inflation at 3.3 percent. Using this method, buying power from Latah County wages decreased 7.8 percent in 2000. The largest employment category, *Government*, posted a 14.1 percent decrease in wages.

Lewis County: Overall, wages decreased by 0.6 percent in 2000. The loss of high-paying *Manufacturing* jobs from cutbacks in *Lumber & Wood Products* caused the average wage per worker to decrease. Buying power from Lewis County

Seaport Table 2: Wages per Covered Worker

	Clearwater County			Idaho County			Latah County			Lewis County			Nez Perce County		
	1999	2000	% Chg	1999	2000	% Chg	1999	2000	% Chg	1999	2000	% Chg	1999	2000	% Chg
Construction	\$24,798	\$19,529	-21.2	\$18,169	\$20,446	12.5	\$21,971	\$22,495	2.4	\$19,739	\$19,626	-0.6	\$28,729	\$30,146	4.9
Manufact.	\$31,513	\$29,906	-5.1	\$31,621	\$29,970	-5.2	\$31,534	\$29,958	-5.0	\$24,280	\$23,125	-4.8	\$44,335	\$44,580	0.6
Trans., Comm., & Utilities	\$25,794	\$23,475	-9.0	\$29,741	\$28,481	-4.2	\$26,688	\$25,632	-4.0	\$17,486	\$16,663	-4.7	\$28,451	\$28,932	1.7
Trade	\$14,596	\$14,714	0.8	\$14,898	\$14,864	-0.2	\$14,005	\$15,004	7.1	\$15,295	\$15,390	0.6	\$16,906	\$16,795	-0.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$16,585	\$16,000	-3.5	\$19,782	\$24,149	22.1	\$21,703	\$21,663	-0.2	\$13,974	\$14,488	3.7	\$30,094	\$31,631	5.1
Service	\$18,695	\$18,644	-0.3	\$16,241	\$16,390	0.9	\$18,366	\$19,286	5.0	\$17,286	\$16,058	-7.1	\$22,828	\$23,122	1.3
Government	\$25,203	\$27,110	7.6	\$25,302	\$29,623	17.1	\$30,381	\$26,082	-14.2	\$20,873	\$21,536	3.2	\$28,172	\$27,898	-1.0
Annual Avg. by County	\$23,992	\$24,103	0.5	\$22,500	\$23,659	5.1	\$23,086	\$22,047	-4.5	\$18,850	\$18,746	-0.6	\$27,185	\$27,420	0.9
State of Idaho	\$26,049	\$27,412	5.2	\$26,049	\$27,412	5.2	\$26,049	\$27,412	5.2	\$26,049	\$27,412	5.2	\$26,049	\$27,412	5.2

wages decreased 3.9 percent in 2000, when subtracting the CPI.

Nez Perce County: Average wages increased in all industries except for *Trade* and *Government*. However, the average change was only 0.9 percent. *Manufacturing* traditionally pays the highest wage. Buying power from Nez Perce County wages decreased 2.4 percent in 2000, when subtracting the CPI.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Nearly \$2 million in grants are being sought for an industrial park in Orofino. The city of Orofino, by offering an 11-acre parcel along U.S. Highway 12 west of the Orofino Bridge, appears to have satisfied any dollar-matching requirements, which was a hurdle in obtaining the grants. The grant monies would be used to improve the industrial park site by installing utilities, improving road access and building a 24,000-square foot building to house businesses. ASE expects to use about 12,000-square feet and hopefully other tenants could be found for the other half of the building. All tenants would have leases with the city. To lease space, businesses need to show that new jobs are being created.
- The rippling effect of the closure of Potlatch Corporation Jaype plywood plant near Pierce is widening in Clearwater County. The Orofino-based School District 171 is feeling the drain of students leaving as their families move elsewhere to look for jobs.

Idaho County

- About 70 workers who were temporarily laid off at Shearer Lumber at Elk City, and 85 employees who were temporarily laid off at Three Rivers Timber at Kamiah, returned to work January 2nd. The layoffs are blamed on the decreases in the lumber market. According to officials at both mills, the Lumber Index, the number used to compare the market over the course of the year, dropped from \$286 in November to \$266 in December. A year ago it was \$383. Shearer Lumber is also suffering from the abandonment of the Camas Prairie RailNet line from Spalding to

Grangeville. Shearer estimates their shipping costs will increase \$100,000 per year as a direct result of the closure of the line.

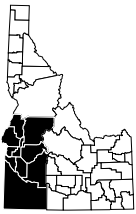
Latah County

- A British Columbia-based mining company is looking to develop an open-pit kaolin clay mine on state land in the Helmer-Bovill area. Alchemy Venture Ltd. has filed a lease application on about 10,000 acres of state land and is test drilling in the area to determine the value of clay deposits there. Kaolin clay is used as filler in several products, including paper and paint. Clay has been mined in the Bovill-Deary area since 1993 for bricks, fine china, and as an ingredient in the medicine Kaopectate. According to Venture's geologist, the deposits in the Helmer-Bovill area rival those in the Georgia kaolin belt that produce \$2 billion of economic activity each year and employ thousands of people. The company expects to complete feasibility studies this summer, with a target date to start mining of summer 2002.

Nez Perce and Asotin (Wa.) Counties

- Three new restaurants have opened in Lewiston and Clarkston. Christopher's has opened at 300 D Street in Lewiston, the China Country Buffet is located in the Clarkston Center on Third Street, and Poorman's Southwestern Café is located at 316 18th Street in Lewiston.
- A new business, Baskets and Blooms, has opened at 455 Thain Road in Lewiston. Locally owned, the store produces gift baskets that contain items that celebrate occasions such as anniversaries or the arrival of a new baby. Others focus on hobbies such as gardening and fishing.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2000 was 3.3 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is unchanged from October 2000, and down two-tenths of a percentage point from one year ago. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for all ten counties in southwest Idaho for the month of November 2000 were as follows: Ada County 2.8 percent; Adams County 12.1 percent; Boise County 7.8 percent; Canyon County 4.4 percent; Elmore County 6.3 percent; Gem County 5.3 percent; Owyhee County 3.9 percent; Payette County 7.4 percent; Valley County 7.8 percent; and Washington County 8.0 percent.

The Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 600 from October 2000, and increased 8,600 jobs from one year ago. *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a loss of 300 jobs over the month. The loss occurred in *Durable Goods Manufacturing* with losses in *Industrial & Computer Machinery & Computer Equipment* (lost 200 jobs), *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Components* (lost 100 jobs), and *Other Durable Goods* (lost 100 jobs). *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* gained 100 jobs while all other sectors of *Goods-Producing Industries* remained steady over the month.

Service-Producing Industries

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada and Canyon counties)

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	239,900	242,800	230,400	-1.2	4.1
Unemployment	7,900	7,900	8,100	0.0	-2.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.3	3.5		
Total Employment	232,000	234,900	222,300	-1.2	4.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	243,600	241,700	234,000	0.8	4.1
Unemployment	7,200	6,900	7,400	4.3	-2.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.9	3.2		
Total Employment	236,400	234,800	226,600	0.7	4.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	225,300	224,700	216,700	0.3	4.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	53,800	54,100	52,900	-0.6	1.7
Mining & Construction	17,000	17,000	16,000	0.0	6.3
Manufacturing	36,800	37,100	36,900	-0.8	-0.3
Durable Goods	28,000	28,400	27,900	-1.4	0.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,400	3,400	3,700	0.0	-8.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	900	900	1,200	0.0	-25.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,000	8,200	8,100	-2.4	-1.2
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,700	11,800	11,100	-0.8	5.4
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,600	1,900	0.0	-15.8
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	1,800	-4.8	11.1
Nondurable Goods	8,800	8,700	9,000	1.1	-2.2
Food Products	5,800	5,800	6,200	0.0	-6.5
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	900	900	11.1	11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	171,500	170,600	163,800	0.5	4.7
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	11,500	11,600	11,300	-0.9	1.8
Transportation	6,600	6,700	6,600	-1.5	0.0
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	4,900	4,900	4,700	0.0	4.3
Trade	56,300	55,400	53,100	1.6	6.0
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,300	13,100	0.8	2.3
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,500	0.0	2.7
Nondurable Goods	5,700	5,600	5,600	1.8	1.8
Retail Trade	42,900	42,100	40,000	1.9	7.3
General Merchandise Stores	5,800	5,300	4,500	9.4	28.9
Foods Stores	8,200	8,200	7,800	0.0	5.1
Eating & Drinking Places	14,800	14,700	13,700	0.7	8.0
Other Retail Trade	14,100	13,900	14,000	1.4	0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,700	11,700	11,400	0.0	2.6
Services	58,900	58,900	55,500	0.0	6.1
Business Services	14,600	14,500	13,500	0.7	8.1
Health Services	16,300	16,300	15,600	0.0	4.5
Hospitals	7,500	7,500	7,100	0.0	5.6
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,500	4,500	4,100	0.0	9.8
Other Services	23,500	23,600	22,300	-0.4	5.4
Government	33,100	33,000	32,500	0.3	1.8
Federal Government	4,000	4,000	4,500	0.0	-11.1
State Government	12,000	12,100	11,800	-0.8	1.7
Education	4,500	4,500	4,200	0.0	7.1
Administration	7,500	7,600	7,600	-1.3	-1.3
Local Government	17,100	16,900	16,200	1.2	5.6
Education	11,300	11,100	10,600	1.8	6.6
Administration	5,800	5,800	5,600	0.0	3.6

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

gained a modest 900 jobs over the month. *Retail Trade* gained 800 jobs over the month, with the bulk of jobs created in *General Merchandise Stores* (500 jobs). Many jobs were created in anticipation of the 2000 Christmas shopping season in the Treasure Valley. *Transportation, Communication, & Public Utilities* lost 100 jobs over the month, all in *Transportation*.

SPECIAL TOPICS: Boise City MSA as a Cyber-City?

The Boise City MSA was ranked second in "high-tech job growth in a small city" from 1993 to 1998, according to a report released in December by the American Electronics Association (AeA) and the Nasdaq Stock Market. Of every 1,000 private sector workers in the Boise City MSA, high-tech firms employ 112 of them. The area also ranked 9th in percentage of high-tech workers per 1,000 jobs, 12th in high-tech job growth among U.S. cities of all sizes, 26th in households with a computer (59 percent), and 26th in household access to the Internet (47 percent).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- In December, the J.R. Simplot Co. announced plans to build a new \$80 million potato-processing plant in Eastern Canada in 2001. Simplot representatives stated that the location near Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, would enable the company to deliver competitively priced potato products to Eastern customers. The new plant will not affect Simplot's other processing plants but will help diversify the company's frozen potato operations by bringing it closer to Eastern U.S. and Canadian markets. The new plant will employ 230 people and will be capable of producing 300 million pounds of French fries and other frozen potato products annually.
- HomeBase, Inc. announced in December that it would convert 62 of its stores to House2Home, as the company shifts its focus from the home improvement market to the home furnishings market. Its 22 other stores would be closed. No announcement was

made regarding the Boise store on Franklin Road.

- In December, Wells Fargo & Co. announced the closing of ten banks in Idaho as a result of the recent merger between First Security and Wells Fargo. Four of the ten banks that will close are located in the Treasure Valley with two in Boise and one each in Nampa and Caldwell. The accounts serviced by those branches will be changed to other Wells Fargo branches in the area.
- In December, Cable One, Inc. announced plans to take over Boise cable television operations in 2001. This finalizes an exchange of cable systems between Cable One and AT&T Broadband. Cable One is the ninth-largest company in its sector and hopes to expand its market size.
- U.S. Drug Lab, Inc. opened a 1,860-square foot lab in Meridian last December. This is Idaho's first clinical drug-test confirmation lab using GCMS equipment. The GCMS technology uses gas chromatography and mass spectrometry to confirm the presence of drugs in a fluid specimen and is the only system that produces results that are deemed reliable by the court system.
- In December, Western Power Sports announced plans to construct a building at the corner of Gowen Road and Production Street in east Boise in 2001. The company distributes after-market parts and accessories for motorcycles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and watercrafts.
- Sears, Roebuck & Co. announced plans in December to remodel the interior of its Boise Towne Square outlet this year. The remodel should increase the sales floor by 10,000-square feet by shrinking space for the stock room. Other changes include moving the second-floor hardware department to somewhere near the automotive center, and changing its name to "Tool Territory."

- Les Schwab announced the construction of a new store located on the corner of South Cole Road and Century Way in August 2001. The construction of the 18,000-square-foot building should be completed by December. When open, the store will employ 20 to 25 people.
- The former Burger 'n' Brew restaurant on Broadway is being renovated into a Buddy's Italian eatery, and is scheduled to open by February. The restaurant will serve sandwiches, pasta, pizza, salads, and soups. The original Buddy's is located in Pocatello.
- The Sandpiper restaurant closed on December 31. The building will become a gourmet Northern Italian establishment, Tuscany Italian Restaurant, owned by Boise chef Alan Klein. The new restaurant was open the first week of January and serves lunch Mondays through Fridays and dinner Monday through Saturdays.
- Noodles also closed its doors on January 1, 2000. The Dublin Up Irish Pub will open later this year in the former Noodles' space at Eighth and Idaho Streets in Boise.
- The River Rock Alehouse is scheduled to open in Eagle in January 2001. The restaurant will feature a diverse menu that will include gourmet burgers, a salmon sandwich, broiled duck breast, hazelnut-crusted halibut, seared ahi, and hand-cut calamari steak. Twenty-four Northwest microbrews will be on tap and a plethora of wines are also available. The restaurant will employ 30.
- AmeriTel Inns requested a conditional use permit in December from the Meridian Planning and Zoning Commission for the construction of a three story, 87-room hotel near the I-84 and Eagle Road intersection in Meridian. A public hearing is set for February 1.
- DeMarcos, an upscale men's clothing store, opened in December in the former Roper's shop at Eighth and Idaho in downtown Boise. The shop offers many of the same lines of clothing that Roper's did, but also offers lines that were previously unavailable in Boise.
- The Basque Market opened at 608 W. Grove Street in Boise in late December. The store is located next to Bardenay downtown, and will offer imported foods, wines, delicatessen items, prepared foods, and gift baskets.
- Extended Systems, Inc. licensed its Bluetooth and Infrared Data Association software-development kits to Hewlett-Packard Co. The software-development kits allow electronics makers to adapt Bluetooth technology or infrared technology to a number of devices. The Bluetooth technology is aimed at unifying the wireless and computing industries.
- Micron Technology, Inc. was chosen by Microsoft to provide memory chips for its new "Xbox" video game console. Sources at Microsoft say that this system will have three times the graphics capabilities of any game machine currently available. The new Xbox system is due to hit stores in fall 2001. The announcement further illustrates Micron's commitment to support new applications and markets outside of the PC.
- ZiLOG announced the restructuring of its company, including a layoff for 11 employees at the Nampa plant in December. The company reduced its workforce by nearly 100 people around the world, and cited a slowdown in the semiconductor market as the force behind the declining revenue predictions and workforce reduction. All affected employees received severance pay, extended health benefits, and employer-paid assistance to find new positions.
- United Heritage Mutual Life Insurance Co. finalized its purchase of Idaho Mutual Insurance in late 2000. Idaho Mutual became an affiliate of United Heritage and was renamed United Heritage Property & Casualty, after the purchase. Other than the name, no other changes were made to the company.

- The Premier Building, the first of commercial buildings at Canyon Park near the Idaho Center, opened its doors in late 2000. The building is located at 5700 E. Franklin Road and was developed as a one-stop financial destination point and includes Premier Alliance and the law firm of White, Peterson, Pruss, Morrow, and Gigray. Other businesses located in the building are Premier Alliance Property and Casualty, Premier Alliance Health Insurance, Troy Peltzer and Associates, attorney John Bujak, Impact Technology, CPA Dave Vauk, Rowe and Associates, Title One, and a real estate company.
- In early December, Karcher Mall held its grand reopening celebration. The 30-year old Nampa retail complex received a \$5 million facelift last year. New leases to the retail complex include Ross Dress for Less, Bath & Body Works, and Musicland. The renovations included new tiled floors, skylights, new restrooms, a new information booth, a renovation of the entrance, and new exterior signs.
- Karcher Auto Parts, a Napa auto parts franchise, opened a new store in Nampa in December 2000. The new store is located at 2427 Caldwell Boulevard. The new store is nearly four times larger than the present store and will feature a wide variety of automotive accessories. Store owners plan to build a new store at the downtown Nampa site that will be twice as large as the new store on the Boulevard. Work on this project should begin in Spring 2001.
- Paul's Market in Caldwell completed a 7,000-square-foot expansion of its store in late 2000. The expansion includes the addition of a full-service pharmacy and more space for the produce, bakery, deli, frozen food, and grocery sections of the store.

Adams County

- Steamin' Hot Coffee Stop, a drive-thru espresso shop, opened in November on US 95 at the old Chevron Station. Steamin' Hot Coffee offers a variety of lattes, espressos, mo-

chas, hot chocolates, Italian sodas, and chi, and is owned by Vicki Hogan. The business is currently open from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort opened on December 2, and had nearly 3,000 skiers and snowboarders on opening day. Resort representatives also stated that the influx of new money, generated by discounted season pass sales, will allow improvements in the next few years. Skiers will see expanded base facilities such as restaurants, a larger ski school and rental shop, and high-speed quad chairlifts all over the mountain. Within 15 years, a large expansion of ski runs and lifts on two unused areas of the mountain is predicted.

Valley County

- Massage on the Rocks opened recently in McCall at 311 E. Lake Street. Cindy Balderson, Massage Therapist, practices several different styles of massage including Swedish, esalen, sports, soft tissue release, pregnancy, and on-site chair massage. She also offers thermotherapy, which uses the application of heated river rocks and chilled marble during the massage session to achieve a state of deep relaxation.

Washington County

- The Weiser Festival of Trees for 2000 generated a net of \$3,200 for Weiser Memorial Hospital. Event co-organizer Jeanne O'Hara said that the auction was well attended and the entire four-day event surpassed expectations in both attendance and community support.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Magic Valley Table 1, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2000 was 4.4 percent, which is two-tenths of a percentage point higher than October, and three-tenths of a percentage point higher than November 1999. The primary reason for the higher rate is that the major food processor in the Magic Valley Labor Market Area (LMA) had a scheduled maintenance layoff during November.

The sector that showed the largest increase from October to November was *Retail Trade*, as stores began hiring workers for the holidays. Other sectors that had monthly increases were: *Government Administration*, *Government Education*, and *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*. From year to year, the sector that had the largest jump in numbers was *Government Education*. *Food Processing* showed a healthy 3.0 percent increase from 1999. The largest year-over-year decline was in *Wholesale Trade* and *Retail Trade*. *Retail Trade* was lower than a year ago as retailers have been cautious in anticipation of an economic slowdown. For the most part, the Magic Valley economy continues to grow, although at a slower rate than in years past.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Construction of the first building in the River Vista at Westpark office complex began recently on North Washington Street along the Snake River Canyon rim. The project is significant for its location in a growing part of Twin Falls and for its first anchor tenant, Nevada-based SMI Joist Co. Ground-breaking took place in November 2000 on a two-story, 14,000-square foot building of which SMI Joist is to occupy approximately 5,000-square feet. The project is

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,080	49,330	48,660	1.5	2.9
Unemployment	2,220	2,070	1,980	7.2	12.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.2	4.1		
Total Employment	47,860	47,260	46,680	1.3	2.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	49,540	49,420	48,150	0.2	2.9
Unemployment	1,930	1,650	1,710	17.0	12.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.3	3.6		
Total Employment	47,610	47,770	46,440	-0.3	2.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	7,300	7,440	7,190	-1.9	1.5
Mining & Construction	2,120	2,180	2,090	-2.8	1.4
Manufacturing	5,180	5,260	5,100	-1.5	1.6
Durable Goods	780	790	780	-1.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,400	4,470	4,320	-1.6	1.9
Food Processing	3,450	3,490	3,350	-1.1	3.0
All Other Nondurable Goods	950	980	970	-3.1	-2.1
Service-Producing Industries	30,020	29,800	29,940	0.7	0.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	3,090	3,110	3,080	-0.6	0.3
Wholesale Trade	2,280	2,340	2,430	-2.6	-6.2
Retail Trade	7,970	7,710	8,200	3.4	-2.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,390	1,370	1,420	1.5	-2.1
Services	8,660	8,740	8,740	-0.9	-0.9
Government Administration	3,680	3,620	3,620	1.7	1.7
Government Education	2,950	2,910	2,450	1.4	20.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

slated to have 140,000-square feet of professional office and other commercial space, including restaurant and retail uses. Eventually, six to eight buildings are to be built on the 10.5-acre site.

- Oklahoma-based Sonic Drive-In Restaurants announced that it had awarded a three restaurant area development agreement to new franchise partners John and Nancy Martin and Bob House, all of Enid, Oklahoma, who will open their first Sonic Drive-In at 2392 Addison Avenue East in Twin Falls in mid-April 2001. Sonic Drive-Ins offer sandwiches and feature signature items such as Extra-Long Cheese Cones, hand-battered onion rings and tater tots, and frozen and fountain items. The drive-ins are unique because customers drive into covered spaces and are waited on by carhops on roller skates. The owners hope to open additional restaurants in the Twin Falls, Jerome, and Mini-Cassia areas. They will initially hire about 70 employees.

- The Australian-themed Outback Restaurant has announced intentions to locate a restaurant in Twin Falls, making it the first tenant of the Canyon Park North business development project on the Snake River Canyon Rim. Construction of the Outback Restaurant will begin immediately, and the new restaurant is projected to open by February 27, 2001.
- The College of Southern Idaho has begun recruitment of a regional economic development leader. The candidate will work closely with the six Magic Valley counties to attract and retain businesses and bring good-paying jobs into the area. A recent report generated by an Atlanta-based consulting firm, Lockwood-Greene, suggested the position. The firm was hired to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Magic Valley area for business attraction and retention. The study concluded that the area, (Twin Falls, Gooding, Lincoln, Jerome, Cassia, and Minidoka counties), should create a professional organization for economic development with representatives from the cities and the counties, recruit new businesses in certain targeted industries and help existing industries stay healthy and growing. The study further recommended that an overall economic development coordinator be hired to oversee these functions. The Business Plus II program of the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce job-creation campaign and the College of Southern Idaho are leading players in the creation of the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization and the recruitment of an overall coordinator. It is hoped that the new coordinator will be on the job by mid-January 2001.

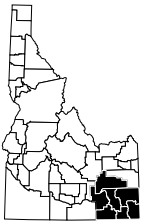
Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, Blaine, & Camas Counties

- A long-time sporting goods store and an antique shop in Jerome have announced intentions to close early in 2001. The 70-year-old Ram Sports Center and Rose Antique Mall are closing and will be liquidated in January 2001. The businesses have said that the street breakups that occurred in 1999 as a result of the Jerome Revitalization Project caused customers to leave and not come back, thus forcing liquidation.
- A new cellular phone company has opened in Jerome. The new store known as "All Things Wireless" is an independent dealer of Verizon products and services. The new store is located in the Lincoln Plaza.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- The Mini-Cassia Job Service moved into its new building on December 11, 2000. The building offers a spacious customer area and improved conference rooms and interview room. The old building will be demolished and a parking lot paved in that location. The Mini-Cassia Job Service will hold an open house later in the year when all construction and demolition activity is completed.
- A new agricultural hardware store has opened in Burley. The new store, known as A.M.I. (Agriculture Manufacturing and Industry Supply), opened at 709 Overland Avenue.
- Amalgamated Sugar Company of Paul will employ a new trucking company to haul sugar beets, ending a relationship with Circle A Construction that dates back to the late 1960s. Transystems, Inc., a company from Great Falls, Montana, won a bid to take over Amalgamated Sugar's hauling operation. It will commence hauling on September 1, 2001. Circle A, which typically hires about 900 workers annually, may not hire as many seasonal workers as in the past. Transystems, Inc. has pledged to hire local workers, so that any negative impact caused by Circle A Construction layoffs should be offset.
- Governor Dirk Kempthorne recently appointed Oakley-area rancher Scott Bedke as District 25 Representative to the Idaho Legislature. Mr. Bedke replaces Jim Kempton, who resigned to take a seat on the Northwest Power Planning Council. Mr. Bedke is a finance graduate from Brigham Young University and president of the Idaho Cattle Association, a director of the National Cattleman's Beef Association, and a member of the Idaho Federal Lands Taskforce. Mr. Bedke will begin his duties immediately.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, to 4.5 percent, in November 2000 from October's rate of 4.4 percent. Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the number of individuals who were employed increased by 450 and the number of individuals who were unemployed increased by 30. Since the unemployment rate is based on the number of individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*, which increased by 490 individuals in November, the unemployment rate increased slightly. Seasonal changes this time of year, such as continuation and completions of harvest, wrap up of outside construction, and transition from summer/fall related activities to the winter recreation season contributed to changes in the labor force.

November 2000 unemployment rates for each of the Southeast Idaho Counties is listed in Southeast Idaho Table 2 and shows Oneida County had the lowest unemployment rate in November 2000 at 3.2 percent and Power County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent. In 2000, Oneida County is projected to have the lowest annual average unemployment rate at 3.4 percent and Power County is projected to have the highest annual average unemployment rate at 6.4 percent.

Southeast Idaho Table 2: Unemployment Rates
November 2000 - seasonally adjusted

	Nov-00 Preliminary	Projected 2000 average
Bannock County	4.5	4.6
Bear Lake County	5.3	5.1
Bingham County	4.4	4.1
Caribou County	5.6	5.5
Franklin County	3.4	3.5
Oneida County	3.2	3.4
Power County	6.8	6.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 150 in November 2000, dropping from 34,190 in October 2000 to

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted	41,690	41,200	41,350	1.2%	0.8%
Civilian Labor Force	1,860	1,830	1,920	1.6%	-3.1%
Unemployment	4.5	4.4	4.6		
% of Labor Force Unemployed	39,820	39,370	39,430	1.1%	1.0%
Total Employment					
Unadjusted	42,040	41,080	42,090	2.3%	-0.1%
Civilian Labor Force	1,780	1,640	1,840	8.5%	-3.3%
Unemployment	4.2	4.0	4.4		
% of Labor Force Unemployed	40,260	39,440	40,250	2.1%	0.0%
Total Employment					
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	34,040	34,190	33,600	-0.4%	1.3%
Goods-Producing Industries	4,650	4,730	4,720	-1.7%	-1.5%
Mining & Construction	1,640	1,720	1,850	-4.7%	-11.4%
Manufacturing	3,010	3,010	2,870	0.0%	4.9%
Service-Producing Industries	29,390	29,460	28,880	-0.2%	1.8%
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,920	1,910	1,840	0.5%	4.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,470	1,440	1,480	2.1%	-0.7%
Retail Trade	7,260	7,280	7,250	-0.3%	0.1%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,480	1,460	1,450	1.4%	2.1%
Services	8,120	7,990	7,620	1.6%	6.6%
Government Administration	3,460	3,530	3,480	-2.0%	-0.6%
Government Education	5,680	5,850	5,760	-2.9%	-1.4%

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

34,040. Job reductions occurred in both the *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing Industries*.

Goods-Producing Industries

A long and warm fall allowed construction work to continue through October, but colder weather and snowfall stopped much of the outside construction work in November. *Construction* jobs fell from 1,720 in October 2000 to 1,640 in November 2000, a loss of 80 construction jobs. Seasonal factors did not affect *Manufacturing* jobs in November and the number of manufacturing jobs was unchanged from October 2000 to November 2000 at 3,010.

Service-Producing Industries

Seasonal factors affected the *Service-Producing Industries* in November, driving the overall number of jobs down by 70 from October 2000 to November 2000. Upward and downward movement in the number of jobs varied within the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Wholesale Trade* gained 30 jobs in *Trucking and Warehousing* because merchants prepared for the holiday shopping season. *Retail Trade* lost 20 jobs overall but gains and losses occurred within the industry. Preparation for the holiday shopping season, opening of the new Fred Meyer Super Store, and hiring for Wal-Mart's ex-

pansion drove jobs in *General Merchandise Stores* up by 200. *Apparel* and *Miscellaneous Retail Stores* added another 50 seasonal jobs. But, *Building Materials & Garden Supplies*, *Food Stores*, and *Eating & Drinking Establishments* dropped nearly 300 jobs as those businesses fell between their busy shopping seasons. *Services* gained 130 jobs with increases in *Business Services*, *Health Services*, *Social Services*, and *Nonprofit Organizations*. Seasonal factors such as wrap-up of harvest, cold weather, and holiday activities contributed to job increases. Seasonal related job reductions in *Government Administration* and *Government Education* outnumbered job gains in the remaining *Service-Producing Industries*. Cold weather stopped road repair work and parks maintenance work, eliminating 70 jobs. Reductions in student employment at ISU in preparation for the holiday break reduced another 170 jobs.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Labor Supply and Demand

Even though the unemployment rate has declined over the past few years, the labor supply is still adequate in Southeast Idaho. In November, with the exception of a few occupational categories, there were many more people seeking jobs than there were job opportunities. Some high-demand occupations where labor supply is tight include: Engineers, Registered Nurses, Nurses Aides, Cashiers, Servers, Fast Food Workers, Cooks, Telemarketers, Potato Laborers, Sales Representatives, Welders, and Truck Drivers. Southeast Idaho Table 3 shows the number of jobs openings versus applicants in the Pocatello and Blackfoot Job Service Offices by major occupational categories. Job opportunities are listed for each job that is available. However, applicants may be counted more than once because they can choose more than one occupation for which they are interested in obtaining employment. If an applicant chooses more than one occupation within the same occupational category, then the applicant may be counted more than once in that group; and if an applicant chooses more than one occupation and those occupations fall within different occupational categories, then the applicant may be counted in several occupational categories. Therefore, the discrepancy between applicants and job opportunities may not be as large as it appears. Another anomaly that may appear is in *Processing Occupations* and *Miscellaneous Occupations*. There are similar types of jobs in both categories so applicants for processing positions are likely listed under miscellaneous occupations, which would increase the number of people actually looking for processing work. When a Job Service Consultant attempts to match applicants to job opportunities, they will look under other occupational categories to insure the best possible match for referral to

job opportunities. *Clerical/Sales and Services* had the highest percentage (39.6 percent) of job opportunities and also the highest percentage of job applicants (33.2 percent). On the low end was *Benchwork Occupations* with six-tenths of a percent of the job opportunities and 1.8 percent of the applicants. *Processing Occupations* had 39.6 percent of the job opportunities but it only had 3.3 percent of the applicants, which would indicate a worker shortage in that occupational category. In contrast, the *Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations* had 12.8 percent of the job opportunities and 24.5 percent of the applicants, which indicate a surplus of workers in the occupational category.

During recent applicant recruitments at the Pocatello and Blackfoot Job Services, hundreds of applications were received. Many applicants are currently working but seeking other employment opportunities or seeking a second job. Most workers seek better pay, flexibility to accommodate transportation and child-care issues, an improved work environment, and healthcare and retirement benefits.

SOUTHEAST IDAHO TABLE 3:
POCATELLO AND BLACKFOOT JOB SERVICE -
Job Listings and Applicants

JOB CATEGORY	Current Openings	Applicants
Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	130	3,637
Clerical and Sales Occupations	401	4,936
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related Occs.	14	687
Processing Occupations	324	497
Machine Trades Occupations	18	665
Benchwork Occupations	6	272
Structural Work Occupations	43	2,152
Miscellaneous Occupations	76	1,980
Total openings and applicants	1012	14,826
* Job applicants can select up to six separate job categories so may be counted more than once in the applicant base.		

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased four-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent from October to November of 2000 (see Northeast Table 1). This rate stayed constant from November 1999. The Bonneville LMA's unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the state's unemployment rate of 4.9 percent and two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.0 percent.

Over the month, the seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 420 people. The number of unemployed persons increased by 320 people, or 11.4 percent, and the number of employed persons increased by 100 people. Over the year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1,060 people, with a decrease of 10 unemployed people. The yearly increase in the number of employed was 1,070.

For November, Bonneville and Butte Counties showed the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.3 percent each, followed by Bingham and Jefferson Counties at 4.4 and 4.5 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, had an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent for the month, increasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and decreasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 320 jobs for the month, with the loss coming from both the *Goods-Producing Industries* and the *Service-Producing Industries*. A decrease of 140 jobs occurred in *Construction* as winter set in and slowed down outdoor work. Two other industries that added to the overall decrease are *Services* and *Government Administration*. *Services* lost 220 jobs because of decreased activity in the two sectors of *Amusement, Recreation* and *Hotels/Lodging*. This is a natural time of year for both sectors to decrease in employment. *Government Administration* lost over 600 jobs with the *Local Administration* sector losing the majority of the jobs due to seasonal layoffs. Other slight decreases were seen in *Retail Trade*, losing 70 jobs, and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and *All Other Manufacturing*, losing 40 jobs collectively.

Over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,950	82,530	81,890	0.5	1.3
Unemployment	3,130	2,810	3,140	11.4	-0.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.4%	3.8%		
Total Employment	79,820	79,720	78,750	0.1	1.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,990	84,050	81,910	-1.3	1.3
Unemployment	2,650	2,300	2,650	15.2	0.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2%	2.7%	3.2%		
Total Employment	80,340	81,750	79,260	-1.7	1.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	9,360	9,480	9,580	-1.3	-2.3
Mining & Construction	4,170	4,310	4,380	-3.2	-4.8
Manufacturing	5,190	5,170	5,200	0.4	-0.2
Food Processing	2,740	2,680	2,890	2.2	-5.2
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	540	570	530	-5.3	1.9
All Other Manufacturing	1,910	1,920	1,780	-0.5	7.3
Service-Producing Industries	53,830	54,030	51,980	-0.4	3.6
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,430	2,390	2,310	1.7	5.2
Wholesale Trade	6,080	5,890	5,980	3.2	1.7
Retail Trade	11,620	11,690	11,250	-0.6	3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	2,010	1,870	1,890	7.5	6.3
Services	21,300	21,520	20,500	-1.0	3.9
Government Administration	5,180	5,870	4,800	-11.8	7.9
Government Education	5,210	4,800	5,250	8.5	-0.8
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

creased by 2.6 percent, or 1,630 jobs, from November 1999. *Goods-Producing Industries* showed a decrease of 220 jobs, with *Construction* fronting the majority of the decrease (210 jobs) and *Manufacturing* taking the balance (10 jobs). In *Manufacturing*, the *Food Processing* sector lost 150 jobs while *All Other Manufacturing* (including *Durables* and *Nondurables*) gained 130 jobs. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an increase of 1,850 jobs. *Services* increased by 800 jobs, with *Business Services* and *Engineering & Management* being the largest contributors at over 200 jobs each. All sectors increased in the *Services* industry with the exception of *Hospitals*—that declined by only 30 jobs. Other large contributors in the *Service-Producing Industries* increase were noted in *Government Administration* and *Retail Trade* which both saw increases of over 350 jobs. Losses were seen in *Government Education* only with a decrease of 40 jobs.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Golden Eagle Sales changed location to a new 22,500 square-foot building in November. A spin-off of B&F Distributing, the company is a regional distributor of wine and specialty-brand beers. On June 1 the company was taken over by Southern Idaho Distributing, which needed its existing warehouse on Iona Road. B&F's new warehouse is located in the Heyrend Indus-

trial Park off Yellowstone Avenue in Idaho Falls and gives the company more square footage, more refrigerated space, and room to expand if needed.

- Center Partners added approximately 150 employees between July and December of 2000 after opening another building and adding new contracts. Center Partners, a Colorado-based business that specializes in training customer service workers to answer technical questions on office equipment, officially announced the opening of their second call center earlier in October. The new building is located just west of their other location on International Way in Idaho Falls.
- X-Men Big and Tall Men's Apparel opened the middle of November at 343 Park Avenue in Idaho Falls. The store caters to men's sizes 1XLT to 8X, who usually find selection very limited. Paul and Wendy Hathaway, the new owners, say their research showed that this type of store did not exist between Boise and Salt Lake City.
- The Thai House opened at 366 Shoup Avenue, previously Ada's Café, at the end of 2000. Pete and Jirawan Kwanmongkhon, the new owners, moved to Idaho Falls from Oregon where they had been in the restaurant business. Although Far Eastern cuisine is plentiful in the area, this is only the second Thai location in Idaho Falls.
- The Carr Foundation gave a donation of \$3 million to help expand the Bonneville Museum in December. The expansion will triple the size of the historical museum and will connect it to the old Masonic Temple. The construction and renovation will start this spring and should be completed by 2002. Greg Carr is the founder of Boston Technology, a former chairman of Prodigy, and an Idaho Falls native. The hope is that the museum will become a tourist attraction and have a domino effect on downtown Idaho Falls renovation projects.
- Century 21 Hathaway-Genta of Rexburg merged with Century 21 Advantage of Idaho Falls in December. Although the Rexburg office will keep its location, employees, and telephone number, the newly formed union feels that they will better be able to service the entire area by working together with changes that BYU-Idaho will be bringing. A host of new service innovations will be offered in the next few months.
- Global Travel in Idaho Falls has now added a second location in the Grand Teton Mall. It specializes in travel needs and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. It is located near ZCMI and across from DeMarcos. The phone number is 535-9900.
- The Teton Plaza on 17th Street has a new store called Computer Recyclers. The company has several stores located throughout southeastern Idaho and specializes in lease returns from businesses, but anyone can shop there for used computer equipment. The store opened in December.
- World Gym will open on Woodruff Avenue between

Smith's Food King and Godfather's Pizza in February with a grand opening scheduled for April. The gym will occupy 20,000 square feet, have a climbing wall, experienced staff to help with exercise routines, and will offer a playland for children. More information is available at 552-5033 or 390-9238.

- The Rio Theater closed doors on January 11 after 81 years of operation. The Rio's owners, Carmike Cinemas of Georgia, already filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and recently closed their triplex on North Yellowstone this past summer.

Madison County

- Sonic Drive-In plans to open a fast-food restaurant in Rexburg on North Second East in the spring. Sonics have a unique set-up where customers order food through speakers located at individual vehicle stations and the food is delivered by carhops on roller skates (weather agreeable). The restaurant offers specialties such as hamburgers, cheese coney, onion rings, tater tots, and fountain favorites. It hopes to employ 60-70 workers when it opens.
- Melaleuca Inc. opened its Rexburg international call center this month after five months of renovation. It is located on Main Street and currently employs 150 people. The renovation cost more than \$1 million. The center can take advantage of the diversity of fluent languages that many Ricks College students and Rexburg residents speak for servicing their clientele internationally. Melaleuca specializes in health, cleaning, and beauty aides for customers around the globe.

Teton County

- Two restaurants opened in the county in November. Cancun opened under new ownership on Main Street in Driggs and offers Mexican cuisine. Lucinda and Leopoldo Hernandez, along with Rita Jo Collins, are the new owners. Miso Hungry opened as a new café in Driggs on Main Street. The restaurant shares a location with Main Street Art. Dana Nelson of Victor and Tanya Alexander of Teton are the owners. Miso Hungry offers healthy food with a lot of taste, such as miso soup, Boars Head deli meat and deli cheese, and various baked goods and homemade breads. It also offers various blends of organic coffee with lattes, espressos and cappuccinos.
- Valley Preschool and Early Development Center plans to open in Victor this month. Kim Sapone, the new owner, plans to offer a liberal-arts approach to education to give the children more opportunity to learn with hands-on interaction. Staff members and volunteers will have to pass a full criminal history check including fingerprinting and FBI screening, and will need to be CPR certified.

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION OVERVIEW

This year we are presenting information unlike that provided by the Department of Labor for the last several years. Our view is that Idaho's employment picture for the next two years will be one of slower growth than that experienced in the late 1990s. However, there will be continuing diversification of the industrial mix. Most industries will continue to add jobs, though some traditional industries will lose jobs. We forecast a 2.7 percent increase in the number of Idahoans working (Total Employment) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 and an increase of 2.5 percent for FY2002. The number of jobs (*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*) is forecast 2.4 percent for FY2001 and 2.9 percent for FY2002. The Idaho unemployment rate is projected to increase from 4.6 percent in FY2000 to 4.7 percent in FY2001 and FY2002.

Nationally, Total Employment is projected to grow by 2.5 percent, slightly below Idaho's 2.6 percent. The growth rate of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* nationwide is expected to be 1.0 to 1.8 percent, down significantly from Idaho's 2.4 percent in FY2001. The national unemployment rate is expected to remain below 5 percent in FY2001. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Greenspan recently has signaled his concerns that the economic growth is now flat and that a dramatic slowdown is indeed possible. However, most other experts expect a national economic slow-down, or a "soft landing", but not a significant recession. There has been considerable deflation in the equity markets, but job increases have been the norm. These national conditions generally bode well for Idaho, although the country's agriculture commodity prices, timber product demand, and high fuel prices will affect the Idaho employment scene. We think a growing population base, increasing *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, and tight labor markets in urban areas will offset negative events that might occur nationally.

Almost all of Idaho's industries are expected to remain in good condition and continue to grow with a few exceptions we will address later. All regional economies will grow although the persistent, sometimes large, differences in unemployment rates between urban and rural counties will remain.

The next two years will continue the past decade's trends of growth in population and employment. However, Idaho's projected population growth, in the 1.5 percent range, is considerably lower than the 2 to 3 percent growth rate experienced in the mid-1990s. With favorable economies nationally and in our surrounding states, there are fewer economic reasons for people to move here. Increases in average wages and per capita personal income in Idaho are also expected to continue during the next two years.

The estimate of Idaho's economy for FY2002 is that 21 percent of the jobs will be in the *Goods-Producing Industries* and 79 percent of the jobs will be in the *Service-Producing Industries*. The largest industry group will be *Services* with 26 percent of the jobs followed by *Trade* with 25 percent. *Government*, at all levels, is expected to provide 19 percent of the jobs.

There are five economic developments that should be watched. First, the relative low unemployment rate signifies a tightening of the labor market. Although Total Employment should increase, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* are expected to increase even more. Second, agricultural prices have been low for several years. While farm employment levels are not expected to change significantly, low prices could delay purchases of farm equipment and supplies, affecting employment in supporting industries. Third, higher gasoline prices mean higher transportation costs, which could adversely impact trucking and tourism-related employment. Fourth, the employment decreases experienced in the past five years in mining and forest products are not likely to be reversed. Lastly, the electrical power crisis in California and emerging elsewhere could have dramatic economic affects. Although Idaho has taken steps to retain our state-generated power within the state, the economic affects in other states certainly will be felt here. And, if the snow pack remains at below average level, the power crisis will certainly be a major area of concern.

Industry Review

The significant trends of the last ten years and near-term two-year period are:

Looking at the ten-year growth rate trends, three industry groups stand out: *Construction*, "*High Tech*" (which is really two industries within *Manufacturing*), and *Business Services*, which is one component of the larger *Services* sector.

Growth in these industries could be summarized as follows:

The rate of growth in *Construction* can be attributed to the increasing population, economic growth, and infrastructure improvements. However, as population growth slows down, it is likely that *Construction* employment growth will also slow down. The decline in interest rates creates a more favorable climate for construction activity, but the overall level is more dependent upon population and economic trends.

The past decade saw the emergence of "*High Tech*" manufacturing in Idaho and its continued sustainability in light of tremendous domestic and global competition.

The growth in *Business Services* is not only a result of overall economic growth but also a reflection of the changing manner in which business serves business.

Analyzing the near-term employment trends from FY1999 to FY2000, you will note the following points:

There was a 3.4 percent increase in the number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*.

There were job losses in *Mining*, *Food Processing*, and *Lumber & Wood Products*.

Industries with a large number of jobs continued to grow. This included "*High Tech*", *Trucking*, *Retail Trade*, *Business Services*, *Management Services* (which includes the new pri-

vate prison), and *Health Services*. The increase in *Federal Government* was largely temporary and due to the 2000 Census and firefighting support jobs.

There is just a small increase in *Agriculture* employment due to continued, increasingly high-tech mechanization of farming processes. However, there is a larger gain in *Agriculture* employment that is covered by the state's Unemployment Insurance program. Not only do the newer technologies require a more permanent work force, but also farm consolidations have pushed more farming operations over the Unemployment Insurance coverage thresholds. These agriculture numbers presented are estimates of farm employment, not the larger "Agriculture" economic picture within the state.

Food Processing employment will have declined in CY2000 and it will be flat or show small declines in the next couple of years. We think this is due in part to shifting consumer market preferences and fundamental changes in the way food processing is performed. The processing often relies on high-tech manufacturing and quality control systems that need a skilled, less seasonal work force. Adding further pressure to this industry in Idaho are relatively high transportation costs to significant customer markets, and other sources for products, such as processed potatoes, that are closer to those markets. Perhaps symbolic of these changes is Ore-Ida's decision to consolidate management operations in Pittsburgh, thus contributing to the employment decline in *Food Processing* in CY2000.

Another industry based on natural resources we think will show future employment declines is *Lumber & Wood Products*, continuing the trend of recent years. Lumber prices have been low and unsold inventories have been built up. Timber sources from federal lands have diminished, thus, causing a shortage. The Asian export market has diminished while the availability of imported timber from Canada has increased. The South has also become a major supplier of building products. As a result of these market changes, there have been a number of mill closures in Idaho and the remaining mills have had to make technological improvements to increase efficiency, but not employment.

Mining employment is also expected to decline. Over the last ten years, employment in this industry has had a few yearly ups and downs driven by metal prices and technological improvements. However, unless gold and silver prices unexpectedly rise and stabilize, *Mining* will provide less than one-half percent of the *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in Idaho in 2001. Please keep in mind that our definition of mining includes only extraction, not the processing of minerals.

The depressed nature of the *Mining* and *Lumber & Wood Products* industries has had intense, adverse impacts on many local areas of the state. These communities are trying to diversify their economies, but it is a very hard struggle.

The industry group with the most employment is *Retail Trade*. This group's long-term growth trend has exceeded the statewide average. Most of its growth can be attributed to the increase in population, but Idaho's tourism industry also has been a major contributor. All areas of the state have seen the emergence of general shopping malls, specialty shopping malls, national mega-retailers, national and regional restaurant chains, convenience stores, and tourist facilities that all bolster *Retail Trade*. Since *Retail Trade* activity is critical for sales tax projections, the increasing employment levels are very positive. The emergence of e-commerce is still an unknown factor

on Idaho's *Retail Trade* employment picture. The slower population growth that is predicted probably will have a more pronounced affect on the *Retail Trade* industry over the next two years.

However, even though *Retail Trade* employment has increased substantially, average wages have not kept pace. Perhaps this is because the *Retail Trade* industry is a source of many part-time jobs, many of which are second jobs for people also employed elsewhere. For example, the latest wage survey reports the median wage for a retail salesperson is \$7.83, compared to \$12.13 for an automotive mechanic, and \$9.85 for a general secretary.

Another industry group that has had an interesting trend that may continue in the near future is *Communications & Utilities*. While there has been good employment growth overall, some individual firms have downsized considerably and others have added employment. Deregulation, regional alliances, and mergers with other, but dissimilar, companies within the communications band have caused this pattern. Idaho has also seen the growth of the call center and telemarketing industries. Not all of these businesses are classified in the *Communications* industry, but they are associated with it.

Industry Projections

We project there will be a 2.9 percent increase in the number of jobs in Idaho from FY2001 to FY2002. From the current fiscal year (FY2000) we are projecting an increase of 29,025 nonfarm payroll jobs by FY2002. This amounts to a 5.3 percent growth rate for the two-year period.

There are two industry groups with the greatest projected growth rates:

Computer equipment and electronics components, "*High-Tech*", are expected to grow 17.9 percent from FY2000 to FY2002. These two industries will provide 27,858 jobs in FY2002. This is a highly volatile industry group, but we think Idaho's industry will continue to grow through increased productivity and capacity, large investments in research and development, improved prices, and increased market shares.

Business Services is expected to provide 32,691 jobs in FY2002, a 22.9 percent increase from FY2000. This group includes such things as advertising, printing, computer services, and temporary employment agencies.

As mentioned previously, the *Business Services* industry reflects changes in the way business serves business. There will be continued outsourcing of printing, computer services, and janitorial services, as well as utilization of temporary employment agencies for short- and long-term labor. In fact, temporary employment agencies often supply a significant share of a business' ongoing staffing needs.

Next, we should note our projections for industries that employ a great number of people.

Retail Trade probably will provide an average of 111,000 jobs in FY2001. This is a 5.1 percent increase from the FY2000 average. *Retail Trade* includes food and merchandise stores, service stations, and eating & drinking places.

Included are hotels, recreation facilities, and nonprofit organizations in *Other Services*. With a projected employment level of 81,677, *Other Services* is the second largest industry group and is projected to have a 4.9 percent employment growth rate from FY2000 to FY2002. Employment at the INEEL

and related facilities is on the rise, and there is optimism that the new general contractor and the involvement of regional universities will lead to new business opportunities at the site.

Local Government Education & Administration is projected to provide just over 67,000 jobs in FY2001. This is a 6.3 percent increase over the FY2000 level.

Construction is frequently cited as a barometer of general economic vitality. We project an FY2002 job level of 35,353, slightly down from the FY2000 number. The leveling off in projected construction employment is due to slower population growth and the fluctuating interest rates. However, infrastructure investments and non-residential construction projects could very easily make our projections on the low side.

Negative growth patterns are expected to continue for four industries: *Mining, Lumber & Wood Products, Food Processing, and Federal Government*. These job losses are few in number, but they represent a continuation of the trend for the last several years.

Unemployment Rates

We previously cited a projected FY2002 average annual unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for the state. We have included in your packet our projections for each county. There is a very mixed picture around the state. In some cases, a high unemployment rate must be expected if seasonal industries dominate the county's economy. This is especially true in Idaho's less populated counties.

We project that four counties will have double-digit unemployment rates in FY2002: Adams at 12.7 percent, Clearwater at 14.1 percent, Benewah at 12.8 percent, and Shoshone at 10.7 percent. All the northern Idaho counties, with the exception of Latah and Nez Perce, will experience unemployment rates above 7.5 percent.

The more populated counties in southern Idaho are expected to fare much better. We project that unemployment for FY2002 in these counties will be Bannock at 4.7 percent, Bonneville at 3.0 percent, Canyon at 4.2 percent, and Twin Falls at 4.3 percent.

We predict a continuing tight labor market for Ada County with an annual average unemployment rate of 2.8 percent for FY2002. This rate is far below any economist's definition of full employment and it could cause an upward pressure on local wage rates.

We project there will continue to be labor market disparities between most rural areas and our urban centers. Rural does not include just agricultural areas; it also includes small communities not within an easy commuting distance to a major population center. The seven urban counties of the state had an average unemployment of 3.8 percent in 2000. The remaining counties had an average rate of 5.8 percent. While the urban counties have an estimated 68 percent of the state's labor force, our rural areas offer unique lifestyles and their economic vitality needs to be maintained.

Wages & Income

In regard to an assessment of the average pay of Idaho employees compared to national averages, we offer two measures for your consideration.

The latest year for which national average annual pay data is published is 1999. In 1999, the average pay in Idaho was

\$26,042 and the national average was \$33,313, meaning Idaho's average pay is 78 percent of the national average. We ranked 42nd in the nation (including Washington, DC and Puerto Rico) that year. From 1997 to 1998, Idaho's average pay increased 3.3 percent; the national average increased 5.1 percent.

The second measure is per capita personal income, which is a measure of the amount of money coming in at a certain time. Wages paid is the largest component of personal income, but this measure also includes such things as interest, rents, and government transfer payments. In 1999, Idaho's per capita personal income was \$22,835 and the national number was \$28,542, making Idaho's level 80 percent of the national level. Idaho ranked 45th in the nation. From 1998 to 1999, Idaho's per capita personal income rose 4.2 percent while the national level rose 4.5 percent. Per capita personal income for our surrounding states in 1999 was: Washington \$30,392; Oregon \$27,023; Nevada \$31,022; Utah \$23,288; Montana \$22,019.

Other Main Points for Consideration

Perspective:

Overall the State employment picture is good.

The overall statewide unemployment rate for 2000 is estimated at 4.5 percent, down from 5.2 percent in 1999.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased statewide by an estimated 3.4 percent from 1999 to 2000. From 1998 to 1999 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* also increased by 3.4 percent statewide.

However, some rural county economies are struggling.

Five Idaho counties—all rural—had double digit unemployment rates in December 2000: Clearwater at 18.2 percent, Adams at 13.0 percent, Idaho at 10.4 percent, Shoshone at 10.3 percent, and Lemhi at 10.0 percent.

Thirty-five counties' unemployment rate increased between December 1999 and December 2000. The increases ranged from 6.5 percentage points in Clearwater to 0.1 percentage points in Adams and Canyon. Five of the counties were urban and the other 30 were rural.

Many rural counties are still doing okay.

Nine counties—3 urban and 6 rural—had unemployment rates of 4.0 percent or lower in December 2000: Madison at 2.6 percent, Ada at 2.7 percent, Bonneville at 3.3 percent, Blaine at 3.4 percent, Latah at 3.5 percent, Franklin at 3.7 percent, Oneida 3.8 percent, and Lincoln and Teton at 4.0 percent.

Seven counties'—1 urban and 6 rural—unemployment rate decreased between December 1999 and December 2000. The decreases ranged from 1.8 percentage points in Lewis to 0.1 percentage point in Bannock.

Two counties' unemployment rate was unchanged—Ada and Bonneville, both urban.

Natural Resource based economies (lumber, agriculture, and mineral mining) are suffering.

Mining:

- Low metal prices affected employment in Silver Valley. Sunshine Mining just announced it is laying off 27 people at their mine near Kellogg due to slumping silver prices. Sunshine closed its 17-employee antimony plant last summer because of low metal prices. The other two major mines also are concerned about

falling silver prices and are disappointed in prices for lead, zinc, and other minerals they produce.

- The *Mining* industry accounts for 20 percent of the nonfarm jobs in Lemhi County. In 2000, local mining operations started to experience layoffs as the mines were preparing to shut down. The Beartrack Mine in Lemhi County laid-off over 100 workers on March 31, 2000 and is currently operating on a skeleton clean-up crew.
- Custer County's Thompson Creek Mine laid off almost 40 workers this year, and expects to lay off the remaining 125 within four years.

Lumber:

- Recent mill layoffs: Jaypee – 215; Crown Pacific – 150; Potlatch in Lewiston – 119 salaried administrative workers and 114 jobs in its pulp and paperwood operations; other temporary closures and small layoffs were made throughout the year.

Agriculture:

- Dairy producers suffered through one of the worst years in recent memory with prices averaging well under \$10 per hundredweight. Most of the year, prices were \$1.00 to \$2.00 less than production break-even standards.
- At the beginning of the year, there was a 25 percent dip in sugar prices. Some of this drop was offset by an increase in production. Harvest 2000 had many difficulties, especially in the Mini-Cassia area where over 3,000 acres of beets froze in the ground. Bankruptcies are very likely.
- Potato prices are down substantially. Nationally, the 2000 potato harvest was the highest yielding ever. This has contributed to an incredible price deflation. According to the Idaho Potato Growers Association, the current price received by Idaho potato growers is 50 cents per hundred-weight (cwt). Last year at this time, the price was \$4.50 per cwt. Many of the growers have joined an organized effort to divert potato stocks from the market by either dumping them or find other uses for them.
- *Food Processing* employment is down 2.4 percent, or a loss of 250 jobs during the year.

Federal Land:

- In Lemhi and Custer counties, *Government Administration*, which consists primarily of workers at the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, comprises 30 percent of the nonfarm jobs. Since the federal government owns over 93 percent of Lemhi County's land, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service have a high profile in the area. However, regulations and the environmental situation will dictate how the mining industry will change in the future.

Wages

Idaho has seen a lot of growth in service jobs like call centers. There have been about 30 new call centers established in Idaho in the last 4 years. Call centers collectively now em-

ploy about 10,000 Idahoans statewide. However, call center wages (\$9) and retail job wages (\$7.50) are lower than lumber wages (\$16.50) and mining wages (\$19).

Covered Wages for 1999: Overall—\$12.50; *Agriculture*—\$9.00; *Mining*—\$19.00; *Construction*—\$13.00; *Food Processing*—\$13.50; *Lumber & Wood Products*—\$16.50; *Other Manufacturing* which includes high-tech—\$20.00; *Transportation, Communication, & Utilities*—\$14.50; *Wholesale Trade*—\$14.50; *Services*—\$11.50; *Retail Trade*—\$7.50; *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*—\$15; and *Government*—\$13.00 (*Federal*—\$19, *State*—\$14.00, and *Local*—\$11.00).

Other industries losing jobs in 2000

Transportation Equipment employment is down 5.0 percent, or a loss of 100 jobs.

Wood Building & Mobile Homes employment is down 20 percent, or a loss of 300 jobs.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find

employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on non-farm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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